

Validating Kills

Immediately after killing a bear, a person shall validate their license by cutting out the appropriate information as instructed on the license. The license must then be attached to the bear's lower jaw. You may wish to fold the kill tag in half directly over a piece of wire or cord (after removing backing) before attaching the license to the lower jaw of the bear in a secure and permanent manner. The bear must be registered by the person who killed it within 72 hours of the kill.

Carcass Care

Bear hunting season usually occurs in warm and wet weather conditions. The carcass of a harvested bear can be up to five times larger than a deer, and the terrain over which the bear must be moved can be especially difficult. For meat of good quality, follow these important steps:

1. Cool meat quickly (minimum 32-40° F) and age properly.
2. Prevent dampness (any waterproof covering must allow full air circulation).
3. Keep meat clean, and keep flies off.

How Bear Hunters Help

The DNR collects a tooth from all bears and the reproductive tracts from female bear. The tooth is used to determine the age of the bear, and the reproductive tract is used to determine the reproductive condition of the bear. Gathered over a period of years, the information also can be used to estimate the number of bear in the state and whether the population is increasing, decreasing or stable. The tooth and reproductive tract should be collected at the time you dress-out your bear and turned in at the time the bear is sealed and registered. It is very important that a tooth is submitted with each reproductive tract. For more information on how to remove and submit the female reproductive tract, see www.michigan.gov/bear under Bear Hunting.

Tooth Collection

Bears can be aged using a microscope to count the number of cementum layers in cross-sections of premolar teeth from either the upper or lower jaw. The cementum layers look much like rings in a cross-section of a tree; each layer represents one year.

The premolars are small, single-rooted, peg-like teeth located between the canines and the molars. A premolar can be removed by cutting with a knife in front of and behind the tooth and pulling gently with pliers. It is okay if some of the gum adheres to the tooth. The aging technique actually works better if the tooth is not scraped clean. The age cannot be determined from the tooth crown; therefore, it is very important that the premolar be removed with the root as intact as possible.

The tooth can be wrapped in paper (not plastic or foil) or placed in an envelope and can be dried or frozen. Turn in the tooth when you have your bear sealed and registered. The age of your bear can be checked at www.michigan.gov/dnr/ab after April 1.

Bear Hunting Reporting Option

Accurate and complete information on hunting activity is vital for sound wildlife management. All bear hunters are encouraged to report their hunting activity, after their season has ended, at www.michigan.gov/hunting. These surveys are the same as those traditionally mailed to randomly selected hunters. Mail surveys will continue; however, the online reporting option allows all hunters to participate. Mandatory registration for all successful bear hunters is required within 72 hours of bear harvest.

Bear Cooperator Patch

Michigan's bear cooperator patch program is coordinated by the Michigan Bear Hunters Association, in partnership with the DNR. Young hunters, ages 10-17, who have a valid bear hunting license may receive a free patch. To receive a patch, please send name and complete address, along with a legible copy of the youth's valid bear hunting license, to MBHA, Bear Patch Program, 10510 Fairgrieve Rd., Johannesburg, MI 49751. To view the 2011 bear patch go to www.michigan.gov/bear.

Adult hunters, collectors and other interested individuals may purchase the patch for \$5, including postage and handling. You do not have to harvest a bear to purchase a patch. Send orders to the address above, and please make your check or money order payable to the Michigan Bear Hunters Association. Bear patches will be available until supplies are gone. Currently, the 2009, 2010 and 2011 patches are available for purchase. For information on the patches, contact the address above or email almicv@yahoo.com.

Commercial Forest (CF) Lands

Nearly 2.2 million acres of privately owned forests enrolled in the CF program are accessible to the public by foot for fishing and hunting. Use of motorized vehicles for fishing and hunting access is at the landowner's discretion. The CF lands are not posted or signed as commercial forests and may be fenced and/or gated. The presence of a fence or gate does not prohibit public access to CF lands for fishing or hunting. The owner may restrict public access during periods of active commercial logging to ensure public safety. Other than foot access for the acts of hunting or fishing, activities such as (but not limited to) camping, leaving anything unattended (e.g. bait, blinds, traps, etc.), and damaging or injuring vegetation (e.g. cutting/nailing), require the landowner's permission. Commercial activity on CF lands is not allowed for any purpose other than forestry or oil and gas extraction. Legal land descriptions of lands listed in this program are available on the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/go/hunt under "Where Can I Hunt?" If you have questions about this program or specific CF lands, contact the nearest DNR office or DNR Forest Management Division, P.O. Box 30452, Lansing, MI 48909, or call 517-373-1275.

Wolf-Dog Conflicts

Wolves, like most members of the wild canid family, are territorial. Wolves will defend their territories and may attack other wolves, coyotes and domestic dogs that are in their territory. Most wolf-dog conflicts occur during the bear training and hunting seasons, which overlaps with the time wolf pups are using homesites. Wolf pups remain at these homesites until they are ready to travel with the adults – usually in early fall.

Dogs used for hunting bear are at risk of being attacked by wolves because they: (1) traverse large areas, which increases their chance of coming near or encountering a homesite; (2) are released at bear bait sites that also may be used by wolves; (3) bark while tracking, which may be viewed as a territorial challenge by wolves; and (4) are some distance from the hunters and therefore not protected by the presence of humans.

Avoiding Potential Problems

To minimize the conflict between wolves and dogs, it is best to avoid areas of recent wolf activity. Wolves will concentrate much of their activity around the den and homesites. These sites often are not used from year to year and can change throughout the summer. Homesites usually are forest openings or edge areas and often are near water. They can be identified by the concentration of wolf tracks, droppings and matted vegetation. It is best to do some scouting beforehand and look for wolf sign before releasing your hounds. Be especially vigilant when starting dogs from a bear bait site and make sure wolves have not been using the bait. If wolf sign, and particularly the sign of wolf pups is evident, move to another area before releasing your dogs.

What You Can Do:

1. Report all suspected wolf-dog conflicts to the DNR immediately to allow a timely investigation.
2. Become familiar with coyote and dog tracks, so they can be correctly distinguished from wolf tracks.
3. Consider adding bells or beepers to dog collars - some hunters have reported this can reduce wolf attacks.

For information on dog conflicts with wolves, contact the Marquette Operations Service Center at 906-228-6561. To report a dog depredation, call the Report All Poaching hotline: 800-292-7800.

Bear Registration Stations by County

At the registration station, an official seal shall be attached to the bear and information shall be obtained from the hunter. It is no longer necessary for hunters to surrender a kill tag when sealing a bear. **An asterisk * next to the check station indicates limited staff and/or limited office hours. Hunters must call the DNR office or private cooperator before arriving to schedule an appointment.**

ALCONA Lincoln DNR Office* 408 Main St. Lincoln 989-726-8336	CLINTON Rose Lake DNR Office 8562 E. Stoll Rd. East Lansing 517-641-4903	LAKE Baldwin DNR Office 2468 West 24th St. Baldwin 231-745-4651	DNR Southfield Operations Service Center* 26000 W. Eight Mile Rd. Southfield 248-359-9040
Northern Oaks Taxidermy 21 Lake St. Spruce 989-727-3667	DELTA Escanaba DNR Office 6833 US-2, US-41 & M-35 Gladstone 906-786-2351	LUCE DNR Newberry Operations Service Center 5100 South M-123 Newberry 906-293-5131	ONTONAGON Greig's Taxidermy & Tackle 35742 US-45 Ontonagon 906-884-2770
ALGER Bayshore Market Lake Ave. Grand Marais 906-494-2581	Garden Sports 16167 Old Hwy. US-2 Cooks 906-644-2908	Pine Stump Junction 23583 County Rd. 407 Newberry 906-658-3364	Porcupine Mtns. State Park M-107 & South Boundary Rd. Ontonagon 906-885-5275
Bear Trap Inn N7294 County Rd. H15 Shingleton 906-452-6364	Soderman's Meats 6207 Days River 24.5 Rd. Gladstone 906-428-2487	MACKINAC JT's Taxidermy W14127 Sandtown Rd. Engadine 906-477-6110	Russ's Bait & Tackle 203 Elm St. Bergland 906-365-5505
Cusino DNR Office* Shingleton 906-452-6236	White's Grocery US-2 & US-41 Escanaba 906-786-5850	McNeil's Bar 6154 Gould City Rd. Gould City 906-477-9915	Settler's Cooperative M-28 at US-45 Bruce Crossing 906-827-3515
ALLEGAN DNR Plainwell Operations Service Center* 621 N. 10th St. Plainwell 269-685-6851	DICKINSON Norway DNR Office 520 W. US-2 Norway 906-563-9042	Naubinway DNR Office US-2 Naubinway 906-477-6048	OSCODA Mio DNR Office* 191 S. Mount Tom Rd. Mio 989-826-3211 ext. 7030
ALPENA Advanced Wildlife Designs 3361 US-23 South Alpena 989-356-3600	Whispering Pines Outpost N-4200 M-95 Iron Mountain 906-774-1277	MACOMB Mt. Clemens Fisheries Station* 33135 South River Rd. Harrison Township 586-465-4771	OTSEGO DNR Gaylord Operations Service Center 1732 West M-32 Gaylord 989-732-3541
BARAGA DNR Baraga Operations Service Center* 427 US-41 North Baraga 906-353-6651	GLADWIN Gladwin DNR Office* 801 N. Silverleaf Gladwin 989-426-9205 ext. 7631	MARQUETTE Cram's General Store 100 Bensinger Big Bay 906-345-0075	PRESQUE ISLE Adrian's Sport Shop 335 N. Bradley Hwy. Rogers City 989-734-2303
The Finns 20025 Skanee Rd. Skanee 906-524-2020	GOGEBIC Tyger Leader Sporting 600 Douglas Blvd. Ironwood 906-932-3650	Gwinn DNR Office 410 West M-35 Gwinn 906-346-9201	ROSCOMMON Houghton Lake DNR Office* 180 S. Harrison Rd. Houghton Lake 989-422-6572
BARRY Barry State Game Area* 1805 S. Yankee Springs Rd. Middleville 269-795-3280	Wild River Cafe 321 Fair Ave. Marenisco 906-787-2220	LaPalme's Country Corner County Hwy 557 & 426 Arnold 906-238-4231	DNR Roscommon Operations Service Center* 8717 N. Roscommon Rd. Roscommon 989-275-5151
BAY DNR Bay City Operations Service Center 3580 State Park Dr. Bay City 989-684-9141	GRAND TRAVERSE Traverse City DNR Office 970 Emerson Rd. Traverse City 231-922-5280	Van Riper State Park 851 County Rd. AKE Champion 906-339-4461	SCHOOLCRAFT Forest Glen Store 7445 N. Federal Forest Hwy. 13 Wetmore 906-573-2655
CHEBOYGAN Cheboygan DNR Office 120 A St. Cheboygan 231-627-9011	HOUGHTON Alston Meat Processing 22428 N. Laird Rd. Pelkie 906-338-2484	MENOMINEE B&J Taxidermy N9590 Pl Co. Rd. 358 Daggett 906-753-4090	Norden's General Store 4244 N. State Hwy M-94 Manistique, Michigan 49854 906-341-4424
Parkey's Taxidermy* 4512 Wilson Rd. Indian River 231-238-8477	McLain State Park 18350 Hwy. M-203 Hancock 906-482-0278	JJ's Service US-41 Vallace 906-788-4255	DNR Roscommon Operations Service Center* 8717 N. Roscommon Rd. Roscommon 989-275-5151
CHIPPEWA Johnson's Sport Shop 29129 E. Channel Rd. Drummond Island 906-493-6300	IONIA Flat River DNR Office* 6640 Long Lake Rd. Belding 616-794-2658	M&J Taxidermy W2443 US-2 & US-41 Wilson 906-295-0376	SCHOOLCRAFT Forest Glen Store 7445 N. Federal Forest Hwy. 13 Wetmore 906-573-2655
North Country Sports 103 Ontario DeTour Village 906-297-6461	IRON Crystal Falls DNR Office 1420 West US-2 Crystal Falls 906-875-6622	Martin Creek Sport 'N' Feed N1066 US-41 Menominee 906-863-4868	WAYNE Rockwood DNR Office Pte. Mouillee SGA Rockwood 734-379-9692
Sault Ste. Marie DNR Field Office* 2001 Ashmun I-75 Business Spur Sault Ste Marie 906-635-5281	JACKSON Waterloo DNR Office 13578 Seymour Rd. Grass Lake 517-522-4097	Powers-Spalding Locker Plant W3765 US-2 & US-41 Spalding 906-497-5248	WEXFORD DNR Cadillac Operations Service Center* 8015 Mackinaw Trail Cadillac, MI 49601 (231) 775-9727
Strongs Motel & Tavern 28952 M-28 Strongs 906-274-5548	DJ's Sport Shop & Marine 31 Superior Ave. Crystal Falls 906-875-3113	Schafer's Bait and Sporting Goods 2722 Sunnyside Dr. Junct. M-55 & M-115 Cadillac 231-775-7085	Marquette 1990 US-41 South Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 228-6561
Wilderness Treasures 101 S. M-129 Pickford 906-647-4002	Lucky's Sport Shop 209 19th St. Stambaugh 906-265-5339	MONTMORENCY Atlanta DNR Office* 13501 M-33 Atlanta 989-785-4251 ext. 5233	Roscommon 1-75 & M-18 South 8717 N. Roscommon Road Roscommon, MI 48653 (989) 275-5151
CLARE Harrison DNR Office* 2115 Sullivan Dr. Harrison 989-539-6411	Keweenaw Fort Wilkins State Park 15223 US Hwy. 41 Copper Harbor 906-289-4215	MUSKEGON Muskegon State Game Area* 7600 E. Messinger Rd. Twin Lake 231-788-5055	Rose Lake* 8562 E. Stoll Road East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 641-4903 *This is a field office
Jay's Sporting Goods 8800 S. Clare Ave. Clare 989-386-3475		OAKLAND Holly Recreation Area* 8100 Grange Hall Rd. Holly 248-634-0240	Southfield 26000 W. Eight Mile Road Southfield, MI 48034 (248) 359-9040

Preference Point System

Bear licenses are issued to hunters through a preference point system that began in 2000. In the license drawing, applicants with the greatest number of points in each hunt, earned in previous drawings, are issued licenses first. Those who are not selected receive a point for future drawings. Upon selection for a license, an applicant's preference points will return to zero, including successful applicants who choose not to purchase their license. Points are also reset to zero for applicants who do not apply for three consecutive years.

Preference points are tracked by the customer ID. If applicants use a different ID to apply than they used in previous years (or use an incorrect ID), their previous points will not be considered in the drawing. If there is a change in ID, applicants must call 517-373-1263 before the application deadline to ensure that their points are combined under their current ID.

Bear drawing success rates vary by bear management unit and hunt date. An applicant with no preference points may be drawn for a hunt that is in low demand, while a unit in higher demand may require five or more points to draw a tag. Each year, applicants may apply for any hunt they choose, and their total preference points will be considered in each drawing.

Applicants may apply for a harvest tag or apply for a preference point only, banking the point for future drawings. Applicants must be of legal age to hunt in this year's bear hunting season to be eligible to apply for a preference point (Hunt No. 00). Only one point will be awarded in a given year.

Those who fail to apply or are ineligible to apply for a license for three consecutive years will lose their points.

Check your preference points at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings.

Applying With a Party

- Applicants who wish to hunt together should apply as a party, with a maximum of four persons per party. This is especially important for apprentice hunters.
- One of the partners must purchase a new application for a particular hunt number, and will receive a party ID number. Remaining partners must provide this party ID number when applying and should verify the party ID number is correct on their receipt.
- You must use a new party ID number each year.
- The party's preference point total will equal that of the partner with the fewest number of points.
- If any partner is a nonresident, the entire party is considered nonresident. No more than two percent of licenses in any unit will be issued to nonresidents.
- All partners will receive a license if the party is selected, except for those who submit an invalid application.

Pure Michigan Hunt

A unique opportunity to hunt bear, elk and other game all in the same year. Only \$4 for each application - apply as many times as you'd like. Will not affect your preference points. You could also win a rifle & crossbow!

Apply for both bear and Pure Michigan Hunt licenses today!

www.michigan.gov/puremichiganhunt

PURE MICHIGAN
Hunt

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

The Natural Resources Commission provides a strategic framework for the DNR to effectively manage the State's natural resources. The NRC works closely with a broad cross-section of constituents to advise the DNR on continuous improvement of resource management policy.

Department of Natural Resources

WILDLIFE DIVISION • P.O. BOX 30444 • LANSING MI 48909 • 517-373-1263

www.michigan.gov/hunting

Report All Poaching: 800-292-7800

The DNR Operations Service Centers listed below are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Baraga 427 US-41 North Baraga, MI 49908 (906) 353-6651 Bay City 3580 State Park Drive Bay City, MI 48706 (989) 684-9141 Cadillac 8015 Mackinaw Trail Cadillac, MI 49601 (231) 775-9727 Gaylord 1732 W. M-32 Gaylord, MI 49735 (989) 732-3541	Marquette 1990 US-41 South Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 228-6561 Newberry 5100 M-123 Newberry, MI 49868 (906) 293-5131 Plainwell 621 N. 10th Street Plainwell, MI 49080 (269) 685-6851	Roscommon 1-75 & M-18 South 8717 N. Roscommon Road Roscommon, MI 48653 (989) 275-5151 Rose Lake* 8562 E. Stoll Road East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 641-4903 *This is a field office Southfield 26000 W. Eight Mile Road Southfield, MI 48034 (248) 359-9040
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Thank you for purchasing a Michigan hunting license. Your hunting license dollars help restore and improve habitats for wildlife species, advance research on wildlife and wildlife-borne diseases, foster programs that help ensure access for public hunting, support hunter safety education and much more. We encourage you to keep hunting and to share your experiences with others. In doing so, you can do your part to keep our state's hunting heritage alive for future generations.



The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act places an excise tax on firearms, handguns, ammunition and archery equipment. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service apportions these funds to state wildlife agencies to be used for wildlife management, research, habitat acquisition, game area and shooting range development and hunter education. Since its inception in 1937, Michigan's share of the Wildlife Restoration funds has reached almost \$238 million.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunities for employment and access to Michigan's natural resources. Both state and federal laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, sex, height, weight or marital status under the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 as amended (MI PA 453 and MI PA 220, Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire additional information, please write: Human Resources, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909-7528 or the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Cadillac Place, Suite 3-600, 3054 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202 or the Division of Federal Assistance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

For information or assistance on this publication, contact the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48909-7944. This publication is available in alternate formats upon request.

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Application Information

Locations

- You may apply:
 - At any authorized license agent
 - At DNR Operations Service Centers
 - Online at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings

Requirements

- You must meet all legal requirements to hunt in the current season to be eligible to apply for a license or preference point.
- Those who are hunter safety certified or apprentice hunters are eligible to apply for a license.
- It costs \$4 to apply, except for Comprehensive Lifetime License holders.
- To apply, you will need one of the following forms of identification:
 - Valid Michigan driver license
 - State of Michigan ID card (issued by the Secretary of State)
 - DNR Sportcard (issued through license agents or at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings)
- You must be at least 10 years old during the season for which you are applying. Youth 10 and 11 years old are restricted to archery or crossbow hunting, or the purchase of the no kill tag (NKT) bear license. Youth must be 12 years old to hunt bear with a firearm on private land or 14 years old to hunt bear with a firearm on public land.
- Nonresidents are eligible to apply; however, no more than two percent of licenses in any unit will be issued to nonresidents.

Applicant Responsibilities

- You are responsible for submitting a valid application. Obtain a legible application receipt and verify all information that appears on the receipt, including your customer ID, party ID (if applicable) and application options.
 - Submit one application only. Individuals who apply more than once will be ineligible for the drawing. Applicants who apply in parties of more than four will be ineligible.
 - Ensure that any application mistakes are corrected before the application deadline.
 - For application assistance, call 517-373-1263.
 - Check your drawings results online at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings.
- Successful Applicants
- You may purchase your hunting license from any license agent or online at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings.
 - All licenses must be signed to be valid. Your signature on the license certifies that you meet applicable residency and hunter safety requirements to purchase a Michigan hunting license.
 - Licenses may not be altered or transferred. However, successful applicants may transfer their drawing success to an unsuccessful youth applicant or any person with an advanced illness.

**Drawing results will be posted at
www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings on June 27.
You will not be notified by mail.**

Apprentice Hunting License

A person who does not have a hunter safety certificate may purchase an apprentice hunting license. An apprentice hunter may purchase this license for two license years before he or she must successfully complete a hunter safety course. The apprentice hunting license is available to residents and nonresidents. Apprentice hunters under age 17, when afield, must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or someone 21 or older designated by their parent or guardian. This individual must possess a valid, regular hunting license to hunt the same game as the apprentice hunter. "Accompanied by" requires the adult to be able to come to the immediate aid of the other person and to stay within a distance from the other person that permits uninterrupted, unaided visual and verbal contact. Apprentice hunters 17 and older, when afield, must be accompanied by someone 21 or older, who possesses a valid, regular hunting license to hunt the same game as the apprentice hunter. A person may accompany no more than two apprentice hunters while hunting.

2011 MICHIGAN BEAR HUNTING DIGEST

Application Period May 1-June 1, 2011

Apply online at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings



Increase your odds of getting a bear license!

Apply for the Pure Michigan Hunt! Look inside for details or go to: www.michigan.gov/puremichiganhunt



Important Changes

- Commercial hunting guides using state land must obtain written authorization from the DNR.

Important Reminders

- Check your application receipt for accuracy.
- Drawing results will be posted at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings on June 27.
- Mandatory registration of all bears is required within 72 hours of harvest.
- To view the 2011 bear patch go to www.michigan.gov/bear.

